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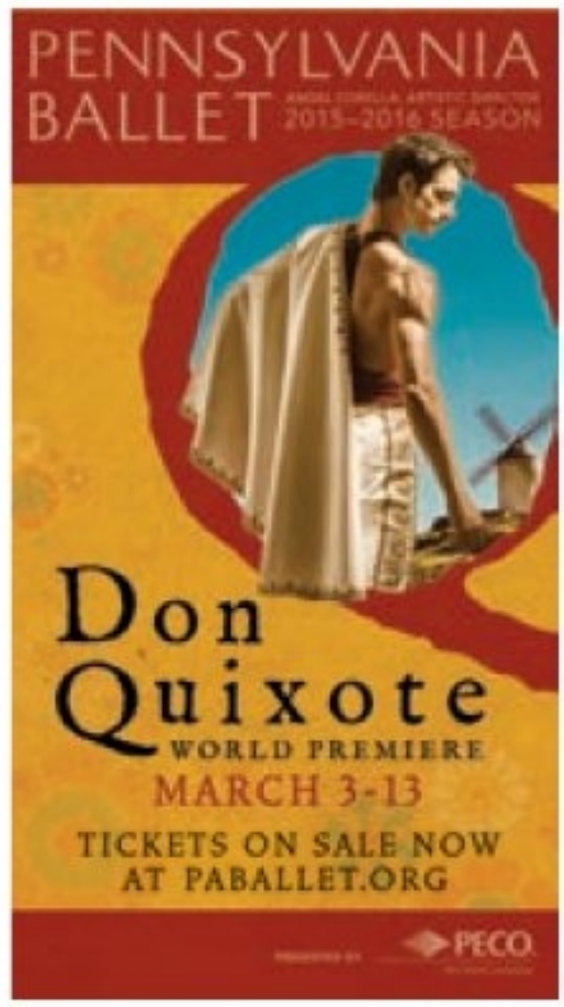
Weekend, February 26-28, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

WE PICK THE OSCAR WINNERS

And sorry, everyone, we're hoping Leo doesn't win. **20**

'You Earned It,' so why not cash in? 6

These combine QBs are good fits for Eagles. 27



BACK TO 'BAD'

In 'Triple 9,' Aaron Paul plays a junkie screw-up once again. But he says his character's not another Jesse Pinkman. **18**

GETTY IMAGES

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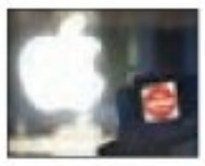
1 APPLE TO TESTIFY MARCH 1



FBI Director James Comey and Apple Senior Vice President and general counsel Bruce Sewell will testify at a March 1 congressional hearing on encryption issues, the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee said in a statement Thursday. The hearing comes amid a dispute between the tech giant and the government over unlocking an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino, California, shooters. REUTERS

2 BULGER MASTURBATING

James "Whitey" Bulger was punished in prison for masturbating in his cell, Boston.com reported. Federal inmates are prohibited from all sexual activity. Bulger was caught in the act last June, and the punishment was 30 days in solitary. The incident was dug up by the Boston Globe, which found documents indicating Bulger was caught in the act with the lights on. He defended himself by saying, "I'm 85 years old. My sex life is over." He also reportedly claimed he was just applying medicated powder to his irritated genitals. REUTERS

3 ZIKA VACCINE PATHWAY

President Barack Obama expressed optimism Thursday about the possibilities for a vaccine against Zika, a virus he said turned out to be not especially complicated. "We just had a meeting about Zika, where we actually think there's a promising pathway for diagnostics and vaccines on this," Obama said during a panel discussion about precision medicine. "It's not a real complicated virus, apparently." REUTERS

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

7 TORNADO DAMAGE

The remains of the house that held three victims who were killed — two men and a child — when a tornado tore through the structure are seen on Thursday in Waverly, Virginia. REUTERS

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

4 PRETENDING TO BE SMART

Some strange news out of Harrisburg, where police said they caught a 23-year-old Ukranian national pretending to be a high school honors student, according to CBS. It was discovered that Artur Samarin, who had reportedly been enrolled in the school since 2012, was not Harrisburg High School student Asher Potts, a 4.6 GPA student and member of the National Honor Society. MATT LEE

5 7 DEAD DOGS IN TRASH CAN

The PSPCA is asking for the public's assistance in finding the people responsible for an apparent dogfighting den discovered at a Germantown home. Seven dead dogs, six of them two-week-old puppies, were found in a trash can behind the home on Feb. 23 on the 400 block of East Rittenhouse Street, the PSPCA said. One living dog was found in the yard, and another was found inside the home where another dead dog was located. Both surviving dogs are at the PSPCA headquarters. SAM NEWHOUSE

6 COPS SAVE MAN WHO OD'D

Upper Darby police saved the life of a man last week who overdosed while on a SEPTA bus. In surveillance video released by the police department, 25-year-old Michael Meeney of Middletown, Delaware County, is seen injecting heroin into his right arm. Moments later, Meeney slips into an overdose and collapses from his seat onto the floor. The video then captures an Upper Darby police officer arriving at the scene and administering the drug Narcan to Meeney — reviving him. ANGY ALTAMIRANO

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Rubio GETTY IMAGES

UPenn plans 'postmortem' after Rubio story retraction

The student newspaper is planning a review after the now-infamous Bible criticism debacle.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The president of the University of Pennsylvania's student newspaper said he and the paper's staff are thoroughly examining their workflow in the wake of retracting a controversial and apparently inaccurate story about the GOP presidential race.

The Daily Pennsylvanian posted a story Feb. 20 with a video of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio pointing at a Bible being read by a Ted Cruz staffer in a South Carolina hotel and commenting, according to subtitles it added to the video, "Not many answers in it."

Ted Cruz's top spokesman, Rick Tyler, shared the story the next day on social media and shortly after got kicked out of the Cruz campaign for participating in criticizing another candidate on faith issues, Cruz said. Meanwhile, Rubio said the subtitles were a misinterpretation of the audio from the video.

The DP first stripped the video of the subtitles before retracting the entire post. The DP has since posted a timeline of how this issue occurred.

"We are trying to be self-reflective about what happened, and we do take the thing very seriously, so we're trying to learn from it as much as we can but at the same time be supportive of each other," said Colin Henderson, 20, a junior at UPenn and president of the DP. "It's good we're being held accountable for something like this."

No DP writers are currently covering the presidential primaries.

The student leaders of the DP, an independent newspaper that was first published in 1885, are now reaching out to alumni in professional media and planning to conduct a "detailed postmortem," Henderson said.

According to the DP's timeline of events, after they shot the video of Rubio talking to Cruz staffer Christian Collins — who was seated beside Cruz's father, Rafael Cruz — they added subtitles with Rubio's comments based on multiple people's opinions agreeing on what Rubio said. No one knew the book in question was the Bible, the DP said.

DP staffers later ran into Collins, showed him the video with subtitles, and said he did "not comment" on the transcript.

> *"We hear all sorts of things on the Internet. The staff know what voices out there are legitimate and to take extremely seriously and which ones not to, and which ones you can take with a grain of salt."*
>
> Henderson

"A Cruz staffer saw the video, obviously he did not explicitly approve or deny what was said, but definitely saw the video and asked for the link," Henderson said.

The DP post started going viral Feb. 21, as some on social media began questioning the accuracy of the subtitles.

Tyler deleted the post from his social media, and emailed the DP telling them the post was "discredited" and that "according to our staffer [Collins] who Rubio spoke to, he said that 'there are a lot of answers in that book.'"

"Later in the night we got an email from Mr. Tyler claiming that Cruz staffer denied the legitimacy of the subtitles. That's all we know for certain at this point," Henderson said.

The DP sent its students to cover the GOP primary in part because of the candidacy of Donald Trump, an alumnus of UPenn's Wharton School of Business, but also as an educational experience for the journalists.

Now they've learned what it's like to be at the center of a political maelstrom.

"We hear all sorts of things on the Internet," Henderson said. "The staff know what voices out there are legitimate and to take extremely seriously, and which ones not to and which ones you can take with a grain of salt."

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City wants 40K Philadelphians to get what's coming to them: money

'You Earned It' campaign aims to make citizens aware of federal EITC funds left on the table.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

If tax credits had the sex appeal of lottery winnings, people would be lining up around the block for them. But it just doesn't work like that.

That's the sad truth, says Philadelphia Revenue Commissioner Frank Breslin.

The city is at the peak of a push to get the word out about roughly $100 million in unclaimed federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) money that has been left on the table by Philadelphians who either don't know about it or are too lazy to file the paperwork.

"The credits range from around $500 to a maximum of $6,242. So it's serious money, and we estimate that there are about 40,000 taxpayers, residents of Philadelphia, who haven't claimed the refund," said Breslin.

"People might think it's too good to be true, or it's too hard, or too complicated, too expensive to get tax preparation done, or they don't trust a tax preparer. So what we're trying to do is remove those barriers. We're getting the word out."

It's no secret many eyes start to glaze over when the words "tax credit" come up in conversation. But when that translates into dollar bills, people ought to start paying attention.

Philadelphia Revenue Commissioner Frank Breslin sat down with Metro recently to talk free money. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

The average federal EITC refund amount available in Philly is more than $2,400, and the city's revenue department estimates 40,000 taxpayers don't apply for it, leaving millions of dollars unclaimed. The city's outreach campaign, "You Earned It," aims to make these residents aware of what they're missing, as well as make it easier for them to file.

"The Philadelphians who qualify for the federal EITC work hard, and many of them are challenged to make ends meet, support their loved ones and provide a quality life for their families," said Mayor Jim F. Kenney.

"Whether it's a few hundred dollars or a couple thousand, this extra money can make a huge difference in their lives. So we need to get the word out."

Breslin said another deterrent to people dragging their feet in applying is in not knowing how. Many times, those qualified — low-income folks — struggle with language barriers and transportation hurdles. That's why the city has put in place 30 free tax preparation locations in neighborhoods throughout the city, close to public transportation and handled by IRS-certified tax preparers.

"If it was a $100 million lottery jackpot, people would be excited, running to get tickets. But here we know there about 40,000 Philadelphians who are eligible for a piece of that," said Breslin.

"The credits range from around $500 to a maximum of $6,242. So it's serious money."
Breslin

He added that some may find out they were eligible in prior years and hadn't claimed it. They can amend and file returns going back as many as three years.

And that's a lot of dough. For more information, go to youearneditphilly.com.

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NJ hospital tampering may have exposed hundreds to viruses

A South Jersey hospital has notified 213 patients of possible exposure to HIV or hepatitis B or C due to a former employee's alleged drug tampering.

The Atlantic City Prosecutor's Office has arrested Frederick P. McLeish, 53, for allegedly replacing morphine with saline solution in vials between July 1 and Sept. 27, 2014, at Shore Medical Center in Somers Point, an act that could have caused patients to come into contact with an employee's blood, the Press of Atlantic City has stated.

The medical center is recommending that patients get tested for HIV and hepatitis B and C, NBC reported in a related article.

Shore Medical Center GOOGLE MAPS

213

PEOPLE POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO HIV

"We are providing free testing and support through every step and are partnering with local health department agencies during this testing period in order to be extremely cautious," a hospital statement issued Wednesday was quoted by the Press of Atlantic City.

If convicted of charges stemming from the alleged tampering, McLeish faces up to 10 years in state prison, the Press of Atlantic City reported.

JASON NUCKOLLS

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HEY, AMERICA — ARE YOU SURE TRUMP IS THE ONE?

THE FOREMAN OPINION

TOM FOREMAN

I don't want you to think I'm trying to run your life. We've been family for a long time now, and we'll still be family afterward, no matter what you decide. But you seem to be getting serious about this guy, Donald Trump, becoming our president. And I want to make sure you are thinking this through before you commit.

First, let's go over the positives. He is certainly self-confident. I've frankly never met anyone more so. You may recall the other night at dinner when I asked if he'd like some salad and he not only refused but offered to punch me in the mouth. Now that's decisive.

He is well off. No one seems to know precisely how much money he has, but it appears to be a lot. I mean most of the guys you date ride around on buses — he landed his helicopter in our backyard! (Remind me, btw, to go by the garden center and pick up some new shrubs. You might ask Mr. Moneybags if he'll cover the cost of that. Just saying.)

And he inspires people. The other day a guy told me that your beau has motivated him to consider applying for Canadian citizenship, and he wasn't even considering it until they met.

But what do you really know about this guy of yours? He brags about never having been in a relationship like this before, and honestly I can see why that is attractive. Many of your previous suitors have let you down, even that one from a few years ago who promised he'd "change" everything. However, all the unknowns about your new fellow bring uncertainties.

Sure, your little friend Minnesota ran off with that guy, Jesse, for a while, and we all remember California's fling with Arnold. But we're talking about all of you, America, and before you toss aside all of your more traditional dates, I just want you to be sure this is the serious candidate you want for your serious matters ahead.

Again, I stress that this is your decision. Our family has been great for a long time because we are all free to make our own choices. I have the greatest faith that your decision will be right or we will eventually make it right.

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Civil rights group to appeal US judge's ruling on filming police

A civil liberties group said Thursday it would appeal a ruling by a federal judge in Philadelphia that the Constitution only protects a person's right to videotape police activity when the images are intended to send a message.

Using phones and cameras to record police making arrests or controlling crowds has become the primary way to ensure officers are held responsible for possible misconduct, the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania said.

"The ability to criticize and hold accountable our public officials is critical to the First Amendment," Mary Catherine Roper, deputy legal director of the state's chapter of the ACLU, said in a phone interview.

Police being recorded. GETTY IMAGES

In an opinion released last Friday, U.S. District Judge Mark Kearney said taping or photographing police in public only enjoyed First Amendment protection when it was clearly intended to convey a message, such as criticizing the police.

"We find there is no First Amendment right under our governing law to observe and record police officers absent some other expressive conduct," he wrote.

Videotaping police officers has become a key tool for civil rights activists in recent years, fueling public outrage over the fatal police shooting of Tamir Rice in Cleveland and the chokehold death of Eric Garner on New York's Staten Island, among other cases.

The decision stemmed from two lawsuits filed in 2014.

One involved a "legal observer," Amanda Geraci, who videotaped the arrest of a protester during an anti-fracking rally. She charged that an officer physically restrained her and refused to let her use her camera.

In the second case, Richard Fields, a college student, took a photo of about 20 officers standing outside a house party, saying later he thought it "would make a great picture." He was handcuffed and cited for obstructing a public passage. REUTERS

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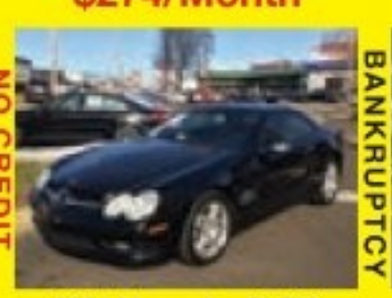

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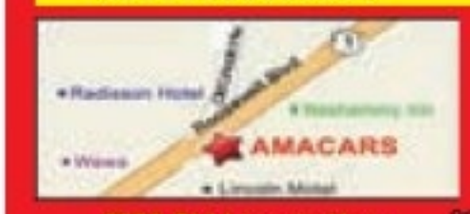

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Hundreds gather outside the Western District Police Station during a march through the streets of Baltimore to seek justice for the death for Freddie Gray, who died from injuries suffered in police custody. GETTY IMAGES

SPEAKING AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY DOESN'T MAKE ONE ANTI-POLICE

THE ERNEST OPINION

ERNEST OWENS
@MrErnestOwens

The first time I wrote a Facebook post about my disappointment in the number of slain unarmed black teens due to police shootings – it was met with harsh criticism.

Either the spouses or children of cops on my timeline immediately got defensive, telling me that I should "mourn for the cops," that "all police aren't bad" and I'm "ungrateful."

But since when was I not allowed to consider the life of those who died at the hands of police?

How was grieving the death of another and calling for justice an affront to those lawful officers who don't abuse their power? Given the recent, highly publicized transgressions made by some police organizations, you would think they felt above reproach.

This week, police branches across the country are boycotting Beyoncé's world tour given the recent awareness she has brought to instances of police brutality. The Miami Fraternal Order of the Police has been adamant on not ensuring proper security on their end for the famous entertainer because they want folks to "Back the Blue, Boycott Beyoncé."

"To taint police officers globally in the Super Bowl is really wrong," Sgt. Ed Mullins, president of the Sergeants Benevolent Association in New York City, recently said to the press. "[Beyoncé] made a statement and now law enforcement is making a statement. What's clear is that no one in the country is trying to resolve the issues between communities of color and the distrust of law enforcement," he added.

It's that kind of response that has made me skeptical about the current mentality of the police department. If the mission is to "protect and serve," there shouldn't be a double standard when it comes to those who practice their First Amendment right of free speech.

So because police feel offended by a certain message, that means they now can take away their ability to protect certain citizens? Yeah, no. Just because a person is against police brutality doesn't mean they are against the entire police force. When officers get defensive about those who question the unlawful behavior of some cops, it suggests that they are either naïve about police brutality or nonchalant about it.

Either way, to reprimand those who do call out the injustices when they occur is undemocratic. It reduces the power of civilians and taxpayers who fund the defense of their communities and heightens their fear of those that are expected to protect them. If I can't feel as though I can criticize the actions of police when they are in fact wrong – who can?

What is often left out of the narrative is the public admission of police officers that call out others in the force. How much has society allowed for other police chiefs or officers to critique the nature of those in their department that have obstructed justice? Not a lot. So we shouldn't feel inclined to misrepresent those who speak out in a way that doesn't actually inflict harm. Whether it's myself or Beyoncé, we should all agree that free speech matters.

Kelly heading home next week after record long US space flight

Astronaut Scott Kelly GETTY IMAGES

NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, who returns next week after nearly a year aboard the International Space Station, said on Thursday the secret to enduring the longest U.S. spaceflight is marking individual milestones, not ticking days off the calendar.

Since arriving at the space station on March, 27, 2015, Kelly and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko have served with eight different crewmates, unpacked six cargo ships, weathered two botched supply runs and participated in dozens of science experiments.

Kelly also made three spacewalks outside the $100 billion station, which flies about 250 miles above Earth, and Kornienko made one.

"I've tried to do this … with a deliberate pace, looking not really at the end, but at the next milestone," Kelly told reporters during his last inflight news conference.

Kelly and Kornienko's stint on the station, at about 340 days – roughly twice as long as any previous U.S. mission – is intended to provide medical and engineering information to prepare for three-year missions to Mars.

Four Soviet-era cosmonauts flew longer missions aboard the now-defunct Mir space station. The longest flight was a 437-day mission between January 1994 and March 1995 by cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov, a physician.

"Physically, I feel pretty good," said Kelly, 52, a veteran of three previous spaceflights. "Even though I really look forward to going home, it's not like I'm climbing the walls."

> *"I could go another 100 days; I could go another year if I had to."*
>
> Kelly

Kelly's medical tests will continue for months after his return. His identical twin brother Mark Kelly, a former NASA astronaut, is participating in a series of related studies looking for genetic changes caused by the high radiation and weightless environment of space.

Scott Kelly, who previously spent 159 days on the station, said the hardest part of being in space for so long was being separated from his friends and family.

"The space station is a magical place," Kelly said, but added that even after a year, "it's just not normal."

After medical checks next week, Kelly said he will go to his Houston home to jump in his pool.

Kelly, Kornienko and cosmonaut Sergey Volkov are due to depart the station at 8:05 p.m. EST on Tuesday and land in Kazakhstan three-and-a-half hours later. REUTERS

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In "Triple 9" Aaron Paul plays an ex-cop-turned-thief wrestling with a drug problem, among other issues. BOB MAHONEY, OPEN ROAD FILMS

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THE FUN STARTS HERE

Aaron Paul goes on a ride-along

For "Triple 9," the "Breaking Bad" actor got to revisit the underbelly of society.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Acting always entails research, but "Triple 9" is a different story. In the new thriller, Aaron Paul plays a disgraced ex-cop who's part of a gang of thieves filled out by former mercenaries and corrupt police officers. That meant doing ride-alongs with the Los Angeles Police Department through East L.A. What he saw could have come right out of a movie, and not just "Triple 9" itself.

"We pulled over this guy — I forget his name, but it was something that's terrifying, like 'Psycho,'" the actor, 36, recalls. The cop arrested him, finding a gun whose serial number had been shaved off. He already had two strikes against him, meaning he'd be in jail for the rest of his life. When they got back to the station, Paul wound up interviewing him, despite finding him to be the scariest person he'd ever seen. Then he got a surprise: "Turns out he was a big fan of 'Breaking Bad.'"

Every cast member from "Triple 9" has stories like this; Paul recalls one from co-star Casey Affleck's own ride-along, which involved a standoff that ended with a perp leaping out a window holding an infant in one hand, an AK-47 in the other. For Paul such tales stressed how real the film is — how the worst things we see in "Triple 9" and "Breaking Bad" often really happen.

Paul came away with a lot of respect for cops — he emphatically recommends doing your own ride-along — but also an understanding that there's no clean line between good and bad.

"You would see these little kids, 7 or 8 years old, on their bikes. They'd see us pulling up, and they'd jump off their bikes and run into a store," he recalls. Paul would watch the cops run after them and come back with proof they were selling drugs for a gang. "These kids don't have a choice. It's all they know. For the adults, it's all they know. They've grown up on the streets their whole lives."

For Paul, "Triple 9" isn't just another gig about the underworld; It's a film where he gets to again play an addict. And Paul didn't want to be trapped forever in the "Breaking Bad" world.

"I definitely got a lot scripts sent my way for drugged-out characters. That's the last thing I wanted to do," Paul says. "Triple 9" was an exception, and not only because of its comically big-name cast (in addition to Affleck, there's Chiwetel Ejiofor, Anthony Mackie, Norman Reedus, Woody Harrelson and Kate Winslet, playing a Russian mafiosa). The director, John Hillcoat, has a reputation for dark, brutal films about violence, including "The Proposition" and "Lawless." Paul knew it would be an honest but humane look at the moral gray zone. No character, from cops to robbers, is all bad or all good.

"You're not sure who you're supposed to be rooting for. You're kind of rooting for everybody, and you don't know why," Paul says.

Of course, returning to a project about a sometime junkie was nostalgic, too. "It brought back a lot of fond memories of smoking meth onscreen," he jokes.

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Who should win the Oscars

We all know who will take home the trophies. That doesn't mean they should. MATT PRIGGE

Unlike most years, the Oscars are in the bag. We all know this is Leo's year, ditto Sly's and Brie's (unless Saoirse sneaks in for an upset). So rather than bore you with predictions like everyone else is doing, we'll do something even less useful: Behold our picks of who we'd like to win.

ACTOR: MATT DAMON, "THE MARTIAN"

Bring Matt Damon home his Oscar for "The Martian." TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

This should go to Michael B. Jordan for "Creed." But he wasn't nominated, foolishly, leaving a pretty blah field of lily-white nominees. Of these, the closest to the best was Damon's endearingly upbeat, goofy turn as a brainiac botanist who finds crafty ways to survive on Mars. Then again, what kind of monster hates ABBA?

ACTRESS: CHARLOTTE RAMPLING, "45 YEARS"

The furor over the actress' thoughtless, defensive response to #OscarsSoWhite — something or other about black performers not deserving it this year — seems to have died down. (And she claimed she was misquoted, for whatever that's worth.) So now we can safely say this: As a woman who realizes her longtime husband still pines for the One Who Got Away (by dying, as it were), she gave the most heart-wrenching turn of the five female leads. Yes, she was even better than Cate Blanchett in "Carol." That's saying something.

Charlotte Rampling gave one of her best performances in the English drama "45 Years." SUNDANCE SELECTS

SUPPORTING ACTRESS: ROONEY MARA, "CAROL"

Rooney Mara totally made up for appearing in "Pan" by killing it in "Carol." THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Mara's actually a co-lead (with Cate Blanchett), but so it goes. As a department store clerk fighting through '50s oppression to be with an older woman, she, like Rampling in "45 Years," has to show everything in minute facial expressions, her insides a roiling mess. The same words describe Alicia Vikander in "The Danish Girl," whose win would also be fine with us.

SUPPORTING ACTOR: SYLVESTER STALLONE, "CREED"

It will be a sentimental pick, but one that's right on: Sly found new things in a character he's lived with for 40 years. He's played puppy dog his entire career, but this was the one time his self-pity seemed downright tragic. Watching him reawaken at the behest of new blood — not just Jordan's Adonis but director Ryan Coogler — was the year's best special effect, and a win will be deserved, even if he did give us the arm-wrestling picture "Over the Top."

The star of "Cobra" was supergood in "Creed." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

PICTURE: "MAD MAX: FURY ROAD"

Witness "Mad Max: Fury Road" taking home the Best Picture Oscar. (It's not going to happen.) WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and Leonardo DiCaprio won't shut up about how hard it was to make "The Revenant." Whatever: "Mad Max" director George Miller shot the world's longest car chase in a freakin' desert and never once complained. Not only that, he made an angry feminist polemic against dumb old men in the form of a rip-roaring action movie for smart men who want to see the world get better, not go back to being worse.

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For Ciccarone's new happy hour menu and this weekend's start of his Saturday-Sunday brunch, the Southernized item to watch is his poutine, a Canadian dish that, in his hands, is filled with fries tossed in dry rub, house pork belly, short rib jus, housemade farmers cheese sauce, a fried egg and scallions.

"I wanted to give my favorite Canadian dish a Southern makeover with my own play on its three classic ingredients: French fries, cheese curds and gravy," says Ciccarone.

While the Southern poutine is a staple of Little Lion's new happy hour (5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays), it is yours for the asking as a secret part of the new Saturday-Sunday brunch (starts 10 a.m.) which also features blackened catfish po'boy, pecan pull bun with bourbon icing, and country fried chicken.

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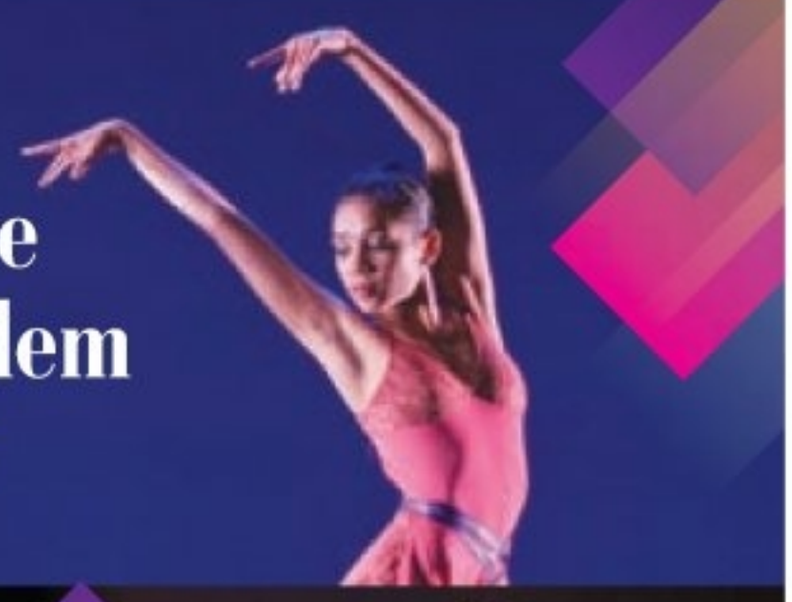
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Behold Kate Winslet as a Russian mobster with copious hairspray in "Triple 9." BOB MAHONEY, OPEN ROAD FILMS

'Triple 9'

Director: John Hillcoat
Stars: Casey Affleck, Chiwetel Ejiofor
Rating: R

• • • • •

There are way too many great actors in "Triple 9." Ditto plot, ditto vomit-y violence, ditto insights about the militarization of police, ditto talent behind the lens. Is this the "Avengers: The Age of Ultron" of crime movies, which is to say overstuffed with pure stuff? Or is it jam-packed on purpose? It could be that this seriously clogged thriller is a film about the fog of war at home, in which every character is in too deep to know they're doomed pawns. Or it might simply be a pack of gangland cliches peopled with too many name stars the film doesn't know what to do with — not even Kate Winslet as a Russian mafioso sporting tall, lacquered '80s hair and Star of David bling.

It's really a bit of both, though "Triple 9" clearly aspires to be an epic like Michael Mann's "Heat." It follows cops and robbers, the latter a gang comprised of corrupt cops (Anthony Mackie, Clifton Collins Jr.), a disgraced cop (Aaron Paul) and a traumatized ex-mercenary (Chiwetel Ejiofor). They're not merely greedy; they're stuck in a Faustian pact with Winslet's fearsome, hammy and awesomely named Irina Vlaslov. Perhaps only the fresh fish noble cop (Casey Affleck) can stop them, provided he can untangle the Christmas light bundle of a plot.

By the time "Triple 9" settles, it reveals itself to be simple, in more ways than one. At a hair under two hours, it often feels chopped up within an inch of its life. It barely has room to breathe. It knows to deliver the sporadic killer set piece, from the mayhem of its two big heists to a mid-film police raid, which finds Affleck's Chris leading a line of cops through a drug house, looking like a human train snaking through tight quarters. Director John Hillcoat ("The Proposition," "Lawless") brings his yen for pitiless brutality to bear on a film where violence is nauseating — even a gang leader's threat that "We train dogs to f— our prisoners" barely registers amidst the din. There's a lot of good stuff here. You just have to sometimes knife through the dense thicket to get to it.
MATT PRIGGE

Hey, that's Gerard Butler underneath that robot dog or whatever costume in "Gods of Egypt." LIONSGATE

'Gods of Egypt'

Director: Alex Proyas
Stars: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau
Rating: PG-13

• • • • •

Today, the trashy genre detritus that used to cost three bucks are $150 million extravaganzas. Even with pricey (but still dicey) CGI, "Gods of Egypt" would fit right in with old Golan-Globus craptaculars, particularly the Lou Ferrigno-starring Italian "Hercules" movies from the '80s. It's an inventively silly — and for the most part pretention-free — eyesore in which Egyptian deities are played by beefcakes who can turn into robot birds and flying dogs, a bald Geoffrey Rush battles a space worm with a staff that shoots lasers, and Chadwick Boseman has his neon blue brain ripped out by the Scottish-North African Gerard Butler. It arrives in late February, so if you're battling a monster cold it's even better if you're high on over-the-counter drugs.

Loosely relating one of Egypt's funkier myths, it tells of the battle between evil, power-mad, spittle-barking god Set (Butler, of course) and debauched Horus (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). The former has seized the throne, stealing the latter's magic eyes and casting him into exile. It's up to a rando pretty boy mortal, Bek (Brenton Thwaites), to restore Horus' sight and help save Egypt. Most of the details are fuzzy, and it's the kind of movie where characters whimsically gain secret superpowers when the writers run into brick walls, which is often. But the story is more or less streamlined, regularly bombarding our heroes with toothy sand snakes, booby-trapped pyramids and even a brief detour into outer space.

That this is watchable at all is cause for celebration, and some of it is outright laudable. Director Alex Proyas ("The Crow," "Dark City") has a knack for visualizing imaginative realms, and here he conjures up a magisterial underworld and a brightly colored Egypt, even if it only boasts one black actor. This busy boondoggle has a sense of humor, which isn't to say it's funny; Thwaites' Bek is saddled with so many groan-inducing one-liners you almost wish he'd been written as a standard, bland everyman. This all might make "Gods of Egypt" sound fun, but it's too cramped and muddled to achieve true bad movie transcendence. In other words, it's no "Jupiter Ascending." MP

'Eddie the Eagle'

Director: Dexter Fletcher
Stars: Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman
Rating: PG-13

• • • • •

Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman in "Eddie the Eagle" LARRY HORRICKS

"Eddie the Eagle" is the British "Rudy," which is to say it's a true life inspirational tale done more as a light, cheery comedy instead of an angsty drama. It might even be deceptively smart. Where "Rudy" merely meant to uplift, "Eddie the Eagle" — perhaps accidentally — winds up forcing us to question our notion of greatness and achievement.

Its hero is someone Donald Trump would call a loser, in part because he technically is. The one named Eddie Edwards — played with game eccentricity and a Beaker-from-the-"Muppets"-like mouth shapes by "Kingsman's" Taron Egerton — was a southern England nobody who wound up ski jumping at the Olympics a mere year after picking up the sport. The movie made of his life wants us to think any of us can do anything, but it winds up speaking more usefully about how being the best is kind of bull. MP

'Only Yesterday'

Director: Isao Takahata
Voices of: Daisy Ridley, Dev Patel
Rating: PG

• • • • •

"Only Yesterday" isn't always this upbeat. GKIDS

The beloved Japanese animation house Studio Ghibli shuttered, perhaps for good, in 2014. Luckily, at least for Americans, there's always been a straggler. Until now, the 1991 drama "Only Yesterday" had been their only feature never released in the U.S., not even on home video.

It's an outlier in another way: Featuring no fantastical creatures, it's strictly earthbound — a drama about real people that could easily have been live-action. Then again, it likely wouldn't have the same serene grace. Adapted from a series of mangas, it bobs and weaves through the life of Taeko (voiced by Daisy Ridley), an office monkey reflecting on her childhood, when the future seemed like it would be brighter. Gently directed by Isao Takahata ("Grave of the Fireflies"), it reminds us that life is bittersweet, that things that excite us may prove disappointing. By staying minor it becomes major. MP

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Wolfmother embraces 'retro'

The Aussie band's back on tour to promote "Victorious."

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Wolfmother's more than a decade of reinvention always cycles back to years beyond those they've been active. The Grammy-winning Australian rock band have often been lauded as retro, echoing stoner-metal by the likes of Black Sabbath — but meant in the most complimentary way possible. Their fourth studio album, "Victorious," dropped last Friday from Universal and the band kicked off a world tour Wednesday in Minneapolis. We caught up with frontman Andrew Stockdale to chat about the album and what it's like to be "retro."

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This release has been pretty digitally involved. You even have an app to color in the album art.
Yeah, people love that kind of thing. My daughter's done it about 50 times. She thinks she's going to win some sort of competition for it! It's interesting how interactive things have become, and honestly, some of their [submissions] look good, if not better than the actual cover.

Where did the concept for the "Victorious" music video come from?
We had a few ideas pitched to us and this one had the tongue-in-cheek sort of comical '60s kitsch thing happening. That made the "Victorious" scene friendlier because we didn't have to be the oppressive force where there will be winners and losers.

In the song you specifically say "She will be victorious," but who is she?
She's the mythical character in the song, but I have no idea who it is specifically. It just sounded good. I don't know why.

With this album — and the ones before it — you get called "retro" quite a bit. How do you take that?
I think it's a compliment. Everything's connected to the past, and we're all influenced from people before us and how they approached things in their style. I feel good about being called retro. I don't see it as a criticism at all.

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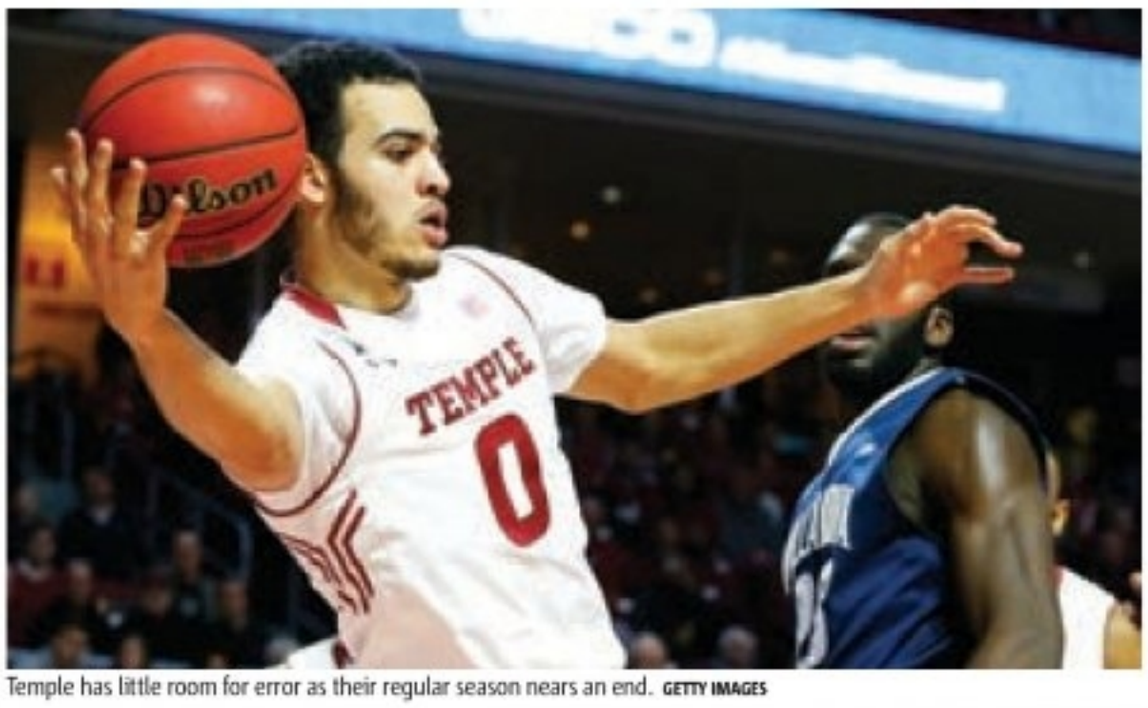
Bubble watch: Will Temple hoops squad make dance?


Temple has little room for error as their regular season nears an end. GETTY IMAGES

Can the Owls avoid last year's fate of being one of the last four teams out of the dance?

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The March Madness selection season is heating up and several teams across the country are fighting it out for the last spots in the tournament, including the Temple Owls (17-10, 11-4).

After knocking off Houston (20-8, 10-6) in a thrilling 69-66 win on the road Sunday, the Owls faced another tough road game Tuesday against Tulsa (19-9, 11-5). Tulsa, who served as bubble busters to the Owls last season, cruised to a 74-55 win as Temple now faces a similar situation to the one they were in a year ago.

After the loss to the Golden Hurricane, Temple now sits as one of USA Today's last four into the tournament, projected to face Vanderbilt in a play-in game for the 11th seed. The Washington Post has the Owls as a No. 10 seed against No. 7 South Carolina, narrowly avoiding the play-in game.

The Owls are guaranteed a bid this year by winning the American Athletic Conference tournament, which starts March 10th in Orlando, Florida. Currently the Owls are first place in the conference, just a half game above Tulsa and a full game above Cincinnati (19-8, 10-5) in the standings.

SMU (22-4, 10-4), who defeated Temple in the tournament final last season, also sits just a half game back but is ineligible to play in the postseason due to academic violations.

"We need to win as many games as we can," Temple coach Fran Dunphy said. "We have three terrific opportunities coming up in a great league and if we can finish strong then we'll take our chances."

The Owls control their own tournament destiny with two games at home against UCF (11-15, 5-10) and Memphis (15-12, 6-8) this week, before closing out the year on the road next Sunday against Tulane (10-8, 3-12).

They'll need a lift from Temple forward Obi Enechionyia, who has been stellar in the team's last four games. He's averaged 19 points and five rebounds while shooting 16 of 28 (57 percent) from three-point range in that time span.

"We need to forget about this game, watch the film, learn from our mistakes and come out on Saturday ready to play," Enechionyia said after Tuesday's loss. "We have three more important games. We're still at the top of the conference and we need to stay there. These last games are important."

If they win all three, the Owls will hold the AAC tournament's top seed and a first-round bye.

The Owls game against UCF Saturday will air at noon on ESPNNews.

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Christian Hackenberg to the Eagles? It makes more sense than you might think. GETTY IMAGES

Which combine QB prospects make best fits with Eagles?

The Eagles will take a particularly close look at these five signal-callers.

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The deadline for franchise tags is fast approaching on March 1. Quarterbacks will take the field to work out at the NFL combine this Saturday, Feb. 27. Sam Bradford is not yet signed to a deal. Put it all together, and you have an obsession over a football team that won't play again for seven months. Here are five signal-callers to keep an eye on this week as the Eagles try to lock down the most important position on the field.

Carson Wentz

The big star of the Senior Bowl, many Eagles fans will already be familiar with Wentz. Despite his small-school heritage, Wentz is flying up most draft boards and it seems unlikely he'll still be around when the Eagles pick at No. 13. It's a catch-22: if Wentz continues to perform well, he likely solidifies his status where the Eagles can't reach him. If he does poorly and starts slipping down the board, how comfortable do you feel taking him with his limited track record – a season-and-a-half against FCS competition?

Paxton Lynch

The most likely of the top three quarterbacks to be on the board when the Eagles pick, Lynch led Memphis to an 8-0 start this past season before declaring for the draft as a junior. Lynch completed 66.7 percent of his passes while throwing for 28 touchdowns and just four interceptions.

Christian Hackenberg

As a freshman, entering Bill O'Brien's program as the most heralded recruit in the country, he completed 59 percent of his passes for 20 touchdowns against just 10 interceptions. After O'Brien and star receiver Allen Robinson left for the NFL however, Hackenberg was left in a situation unrecognizable from the system O'Brien had recruited him into. Under James Franklin, Hackenberg and the offense in general, stuttered.

Jacoby Brissett

Brissett, like Hackenberg, spent a lot of time running away from pressure at NC State. On the one hand, that might prepare either of them for a day behind the Eagles' current offensive line, or putting them behind one that bad in the NFL might just cement any bad habits they've already developed. There are moments reminiscent of Donovan McNabb's days avoiding defenders in Philadelphia's backfield.

Cardale Jones

Any opportunity for scouts to see more of Jones is one they have to take, since the big junior threw just 270 passes in his college career. But many of those passes came as the Buckeyes blasted Wisconsin 59-0 to play their way into the College Football Playoff where they shocked Alabama and drubbed Oregon.

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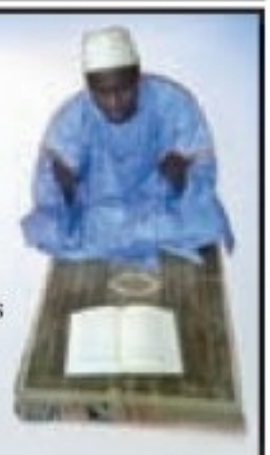

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Attention: Food Service Management Companies

The Inquiry Charter School is requesting proposals for school food service management services at its three school locations: Belmont CS (4030 Brown St) Belmont Academy CS (907 N. 41st St) and Inquiry CS (1301 Belmont Ave). The Food Service Management Company will provide management services

according to United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) policies and guidelines.

Food Service Management Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:
Inquiry Charter School
Administrative Offices
1630 Locust Street
Floor 3
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Inquiry Charter School Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school.

A walk-through meeting is scheduled for **March 9th, 2016 @ 2pm** at **4030 Brown Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.** (Please note we will be visiting all 3 sites during the walkthrough.)

All proposals must be submitted no later than **April 8th, 2016 @ 12 noon.** All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to Inquiry Charter School and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal

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3			4					7
4	7	2	1					6
	6		2			1		
			9				7	2
			6		8			
8	9				4			
		8			5		1	
1					2	7	5	4
6					1			3

hard

				7				1
	2	4		1	5			9
	6		4		3			
4		5			9		2	
		2				8		
	3		2			1		6
			5		8		3	
2			1	3		9	6	
5				2				

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Participating in events that mean something to you will give you the strength to make personal changes. Put your plans in motion and don't look back.

Taurus Initiate what you want to see happen. Don't be afraid to do things differently. It's your uniqueness that will attract attention and help you get things done.

Gemini Live, love and laugh. No matter what you do, make your presence felt and your input meaningful. Walk away from negativity, bad influences and unfair situations.

Cancer Put in extra hours working toward something that will help you stand out or beat any challenge or competition you face. Don't give in to emotional blackmail.

Leo Make changes to your living quarters. Voice your thoughts, discuss your intentions and make a plea to a loved one to help make your dreams come true.

Virgo You can enjoy life without spending money or getting involved in someone else's risky affairs. Expand your mind or take part in something that is geared to your benefit.

Libra Emotions will surface if you let someone push you around. If you make plans to do something with someone who's supportive, greater self-awareness and confidence will unfold.

Scorpio Explore new interests or give a unique spin to a project or pastime. A chance to reconnect with someone you enjoyed working with in the past will also contribute to your success.

Sagittarius You'll face opposition if you don't live up to your promises. Have an explanation ready and an alternative solution in place. Protect your reputation and stick to the truth.

Capricorn High energy coupled with interesting ideas will capture others' attention. An unexpected emotional response will lead to a better plan. Don't feel the need to act in haste.

Aquarius Added discipline will pay off. Don't let someone who is disgruntled or negative stand between you and victory. Put yourself first and celebrate your success with a loved one.

Pisces Take a different approach to handling your money and you will make headway. Get together with someone from your past who can help you revisit old dreams. **EUGENIA LAST**

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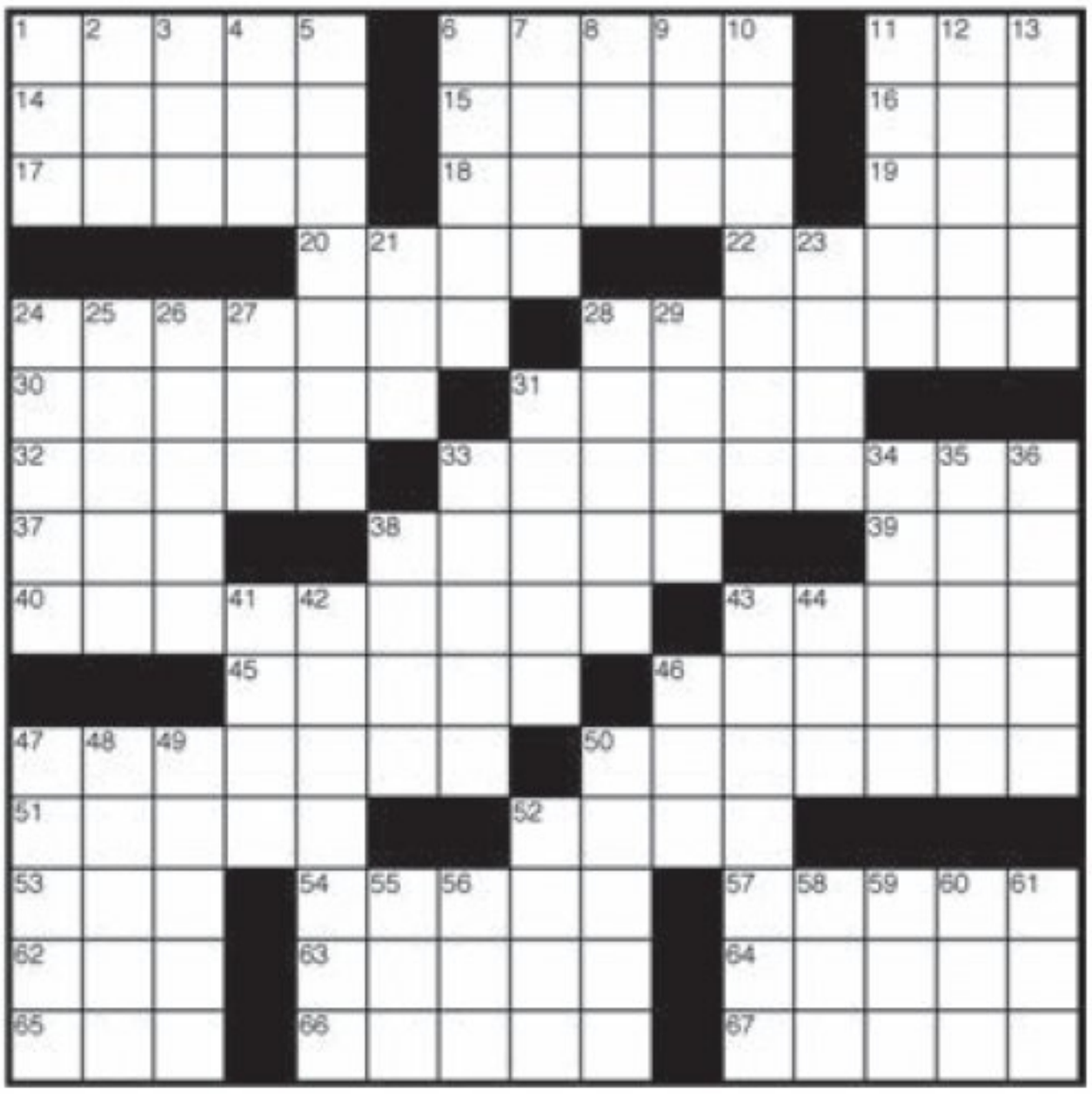
Across

1 On the fritz
6 Bwana, in India
11 NASA counterpart
14 Animal that hisses
15 Ooze out
16 Geol. formation
17 Hero's award
18 Rock climber's aid
19 Opposite of cheer
20 Tiant or Aparicio
22 Make changes to
24 Staying power
28 Third man in the ring
30 Put in order
31 1 or 2
32 Surprise attacks
33 With all one's heart
37 High dudgeon
38 Greets the day
39 Minuscule
40 More corpulent
43 Diva's accolade
45 Ph.D. exams
46 Less cloudy
47 Place to learn
50 Wine servers
51 Canape toppers
52 Spill the beans
53 Historian's word
54 Major oil hub
57 Gung-ho
62 "The One I Love" group
63 Us, to Pogo
64 Lofty capital
65 Six-pointers
66 Eats sparingly
67 Not get renewed

Down

1 Eur. airline
2 Dark brew
3 Mattress extra
4 Ms. Thurman of "Gattaca"
5 Adds up
6 Tintype hue
7 Poles' connector
8 Rough shelter
9 Bachelor's last words (2 wds.)
10 Fund-raiser
11 Hearth residue
12 Excalibur's holder
13 Battery's "+" end
21 Et, for Hans
23 Ration out
24 Take it all off
25 Coronet
26 Farewell
27 Halfway
28 Delta maker
29 They're easily bruised
31 Fakes out, on the rink
33 Newspaper type
34 Gnome
35 Flood barrier
36 Century units
38 Pow!
41 Leaf juncture
42 Peaked
43 Biceps builder
44 Narrow inlet
46 JFK watchdog
47 Separate
48 Like a canary
49 Quark habitats
50 Potters' supplies
52 Cellar, briefly
55 Verse lead-in
56 Grant foe
58 "—, Magoo, m'boy . . ."
59 Space between
60 Hairpin curve
61 Funny Charlotte —



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